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but by no means all. From the end of the seventeenth century French and American hunting parties were frequent visitors to Kentucky and Tennessee, and had been so successful that it was said in 1767 that the game there was scarce. By 1768 the whole region was fairly well known to many English-speaking visitors and hundreds of boatmen had floated on the Ohio past its shores. Mr. Henderson mentions a few voyages (p. 120) and dismisses them with the following, "though interesting enough in themselves, [they] had little bearing upon the larger phases of westward expansion".

There are a few errors in the book that should be noted. Céloron de Blainville, and not Céleron de Bienville, was the French officer who was sent in to the Ohio valley in 1748. The Cherokee were never so favorable to the French as is stated on page 49. The traditional interpretation of the importance of Governor Spotswood's expedition to the mountains is retained. It is not yet proved that the British in the Northwest offered bounties for American scalps (p. 261). Unfortunately a line or more has been dropped by printer's carelessness at the bottom of page 193; aside from this, the book is very free from typographical errors.

From what has been said it is evident that there are grave limitations to Mr. Henderson's interpretation of Old Southwest history; but if the reader is interested in the Watauga settlement, in the Transylvania experiment, in the battle of King's Mountain, in the Indian wars of Tennessee, in the abortive attempt to establish the state of Franklin, and in a fine interpretation of the character and spirit of the frontiersmen, he will find the narrative very valuable.

C. W. ALVORD.

Adventurers of Oregon: a Chronicle of the Fur Trade. By CONSTANCE L. SKINNER. [Chronicles of America series, vol. XXII.] (New Haven: Yale University Press. 1920. Pp. x, 290.)

THIS book is a delight. The author treats the dramatic scenes and incidents in the background of Oregon's history, achieving therein a wholly unusual degree of literary perfection. Thus she has produced a narrative which, for adult readers, deserves to take very high rank in its special field. That field the subtitles, eight in number, help to define although each of these again calls for some analysis. The titles are: the River of the West, Lewis and Clark, the Reign of the Trapper, the *Tonquin*, Astor's Overlanders, Astoria under the Nor'westers, and the King of Old Oregon. The period covered is from the beginnings of exploration to the settlement of the Oregon boundary dispute in 1846, and—the themes represented by the above chapter-heads are essentially two—Discovery and Exploration, and the Fur-Trade.

In her treatment the author exhibits a good knowledge of the facts, a comprehension of relations, critical insight, and a mastery of artistic arrangement rarely excelled. Her critical acumen is manifested not

merely in the correct analysis of documents, a common enough accomplishment, but in that higher intellectual gift which enables its possessor to interpret complex human situations. It is illustrated, for example, in the discerning criticisms passed on Hunt's leadership of the overland Astorians.

The fur-trade history is an exceedingly complicated subject, difficult to organize. Chapter III. of this book gives an admirable sketch of that history from "the first Indian who stepped forward to offer a beaver pelt to a man of our race in exchange for some trinket made in Europe", through the intricacies of the French, Hudson Bay, Canadian, and Missouri trading activities, to the inauguration of Astor's continental plan. The remainder of the book, practically, is on the fur-trade of the Oregon country.

This limitation of scope is fortunate, for at the few points where the author strays into the less exciting domains of diplomacy, politics, missionary enterprise, or emigration, interest declines and her grip on the original materials relaxes. The treatment of those topics suggests that they formed no organic part of her serious studies and are merely intrusive, disturbing elements in the narrative. The space devoted to them is almost negligible, but on account of the excellence of the main part of the book it is the more necessary to call attention to some of the misconceptions which mar these few paragraphs. When the author says (pp. 252-253): "On McLoughlin's advice, Whitman went to the Cayuse Indians about five miles west of Walla Walla, and Spalding established himself at Lapwai on the Clearwater among the Nez Percés", she ignores the results of Parker's survey which revealed the most eligible sites for missions. The agency of McLoughlin in distributing American missionaries over the country is strangely exaggerated, as when she says (p. 256): "Whitman and Spalding, McLoughlin had sent to different tribes, so that each tribe should have but one white leader of light and thus should not be confused by a divided authority", as if the missionaries, and their National Board, had no policy of their own! To say, as the author does (p. 262), speaking of the revised provisional government: "The new government was opposed by the British settlers and by Douglas. But McLoughlin supported it and contributed to its first exchequer", is to go contrary to two stubborn documentary facts: (a) the Canadian settlers' address, in which the British element declare in favor of a provisional government, and (b) the agreement of July 15, 1845, between the Hudson's Bay Company and the officers of the provisional government, which was signed, on the part of the company, by both McLoughlin and Douglas. Other similar faults could be mentioned, and there are a few slips in citations—*Gilbert*, for *Gabriel* Franchere, for example. She also cites the 1905 edition of Schafer's *Pacific Northwest*, which has been superseded at many points by the 1918 edition.

But, we repeat, the book is a delight.

JOSEPH SCHAFER.